

Appl. No. 09/655,223

Amendment dated November 17, 2003

Response to Office Action of May 19, 2003 (Paper No. 10)

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 30 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention provides a method of packaging ~~goods~~ foodstuffs having a liquid element, ~~said liquid element comprising dissolved gases, wherein the liquid element is treated prior to said goods being subjected to a vacuum packing process, such that a substantial proportion of said dissolved gases does not escapes from said liquid element during said vacuum packing process~~ and a solid element, said liquid element comprising dissolved gases, the method comprising the steps of: subjecting the liquid element to a gas removal process to remove a substantial proportion of the dissolved gases from the liquid element prior to said foodstuff being subjected to a vacuum packing process and before being combined with the solid element of the foodstuff in a single container for the vacuum packing process; and vacuum packing the combined liquid element and solid element; and in which no heat is applied to the liquid element during the packaging process.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22 of the specification (beginning with the words "Preferably, the container is shaped").

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Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 1 of the specification (beginning with the words "The reader's attention").

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 8 of the specification (beginning with the words "All of the features disclosed").